

BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR THE
Year ended 31st December, 1961.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., So., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:
A.F.J. Webb, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.


Assistant Public Health Inspector :
D.J. Trebilcock, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.P.H.H.



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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for 1961.



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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	3,312
Estimated Mid-Year Population	6,080
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,629
Rateable Value	£68,799
Product of Penny Rate	285
Comparability Factors	
Births	1.37
Deaths	0.35

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Registered Births, 1961.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	49	25	74
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	<u>51</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>78</u>

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	12.83
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.4
Comparable birth rate	17.57

STILLBIRTHS.

Three legitimate still-births were registered - one male and two female.

DEATHS.

Registered Deaths, 1961.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	53	88	141
Crude Death rate per 1,000 population	=	23.19	
Comparable death rate	=	8.11	
Death rate England and Wales	=	12.0	

173

174

175

17.83
17.4
17.57

Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population
Birth rate for England and Wales
Comparison of birth rates

Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population
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Comparison of birth rates

Total.

Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population

171

88

53

BIRTHS.

Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population = 83.19
Comparison of birth rates = 8.11
Death rate England and Wales = 12.0

Total.

Total.

Total.

171

88

53

Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population

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Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population

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88

53

Grave Birth rate per 1,000 population

Registered Deaths (excluding St. Lawrence's Hospital).

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
29	25	54

Death rate in Borough Residents = 9 per 1,000.

Deaths by Ages. (Borough Residents).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
0 - 1	4	0	4
1 - 10	0	0	0
11 - 20	0	1	1
21 - 40	0	1	1
41 - 60	6	3	9
61 - 70	8	8	16
71 - 80	6	4	10
80 +	5	8	13
	29	25	54

Four male infant deaths were registered, all occurring within the first month of life.

Deaths by Cause. (Borough Residents).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Heart Disease	14	11	25
Cerebro Vascular Dis ease	-	3	3
Respiratory Dis ease	2	4	6
Cancer	7	4	11
Accident	-	2	2
All other causes	6	1	7
	29	25	54

11. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital Services.

General Medical, Surgical and Orthopaedic needs are supplied mainly by the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro, and the East Cornwall Hospital in Bodmin. Outpatient facilities and physiotherapy are available at the East Cornwall Hospital. It has been realised for some time that the accommodation at the East Cornwall Hospital is inadequate. The proposal to transfer the out-patient department to a new building within the area of St. Lawrence's hospital appears to be well under way. The ultimate future of the East Cornwall Hospital is still not determined. The alternatives seem to be either a hospital for elderly sick, or a maternity unit.

Progress in the modernisation of St. Lawrence's Hospital continues. The changes which have taken place over the past ten years have to be seen to be appreciated.

Maternity and Gynaecological services were provided by the Redruth Hospital and the Plymouth Group of Hospitals, supplemented by Nursing Homes, at Trebarras (Liskeard) and Old Tree (Launceston).

Laboratory Services. The Laboratory at the R.C.I. continued to be used for Public Health purposes.

Local Health Authority Services.

Ambulance. The County Council Main Station, manned full time, provided adequate ambulance cover during the year.

Infant Welfare. The Infant Welfare Centre held in Narisa Hall continued to be well attended. The services provided are mainly immunisation and advisory.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. Two nurses undertaking combined duties were employed during 1961, with part time assistance in general and health visiting duties.

Home Help Service. The greatest demand for domestic help continued to be to the elderly and chronic sick.

Immunisation and Vaccination. Protective inoculations against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus (Combined), Poliomyelitis and Smallpox, were available through the General Practitioner, Infant Welfare Centre or School Health Service. Protection against tuberculosis was available through the Chest Clinic at the East Cornwall Hospital and the School Health Service for Children in their thirteenth year.

School Health Service. The physical condition of pupils was found to be satisfactory on routine inspection. The Bodmin County Secondary School was opened during the year, and reduced the over crowding in the all-age schools in the district. The new building makes the many deficiencies of old schools much more obvious.

111. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. In January the responsibility for water supplies passed to the North Cornwall Water Board, upon which the Council have representatives. The supply in adequacy and bacteriological quality was satisfactory, throughout the year. There are still however many deficiencies in the system which must be remedied before the supply can be regarded as a good one. Twenty two samples of treated water were taken. All but three were satisfactory bacteriologically. Mains flushing produced safe samples at the points where the bad samples had been obtained. The main cause for complaint was discoloration chiefly in the lower levels of the town.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. The town now has three treatment works - Dragon Pits, Scarletts Well and Bowling House. The latter works were completed in 1961, and serve the properties to the West of the town, taking some of the flow which previously passed to the Scarletts Well works. The whole of the Westheath Estate is now sewered and all septic tank drainage in this Area has ceased. Scarletts Well works continue to be overloaded and require modernisation. The Council has put in hand proposals for their reconstruction. One of the difficult problems associated with these works is the age and type of some of the larger sewers leading to them. These allow the entry of subsoil water, increasing the volume of sewage to be treated. The replacement of the old sewers will have to be faced at some future date.

Refusal Disposal. The site at Dragon Pits continued to serve the town for the disposal of refuse. No complaints were received, and the site has not proved to be a source of annoyance to the new County Secondary School. Control is as good as conditions permit, but areas of burning refuse are always evident. The volume of refuse for collection has increased substantially with the greater number of occupied houses and new factories in the Town. The Council have agreed to provide a more modern collecting vehicle during the next financial year.

Rodent Control. The Council employ one man on rodent control. No serious infestations were reported during 1961. Surveys showed the incidence of rats to be very small.

Public Health Inspections.

Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	362
Private Houses	290
Food Premises	52
Slaughterhouses	282
Others	140

Fifteen informal notices were served in relation to defects found on complaint. All produced satisfactory results.

The licence to the Pet Shop was renewed, and one licence under the Waste Food Order 1957 was issued.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

There are two sites for caravans within the Borough, one at Dummere and one at Cooksland. The former was issued with a licence during the year, but proposals for the development of the latter were still being considered.

IV. HOUSING.

Work continued on the erection of eight one bedroomed flats to complete the development at the lower end of Downing Street, Eighteen bungalows were completed in Rock Lane. Plans were prepared for a block of flats for the elderly with welfare and warden facilities, in Crockwell Street. Private development provided 32 dwellings and a further 80 were under construction during the year on the Westheath Estate where a total of 117 low priced houses are being erected. This large amount of development is a considerable achievement in a small town and will contribute substantially in solving the housing problems which the Council still face. The difference between private and Council building is striking and it must be remembered that there are still many families on the Council's list who are unable to acquire houses of their own.

A public enquiry was held in November on the Rhind Street Clearance Area (comprising 22 houses), submitted earlier in the year. The Minister's decision was not notified by the end of the year. Closing orders were secured on four premises under the Housing Act, 1957. Seven Standard Grants and 3 Discretionary Grants were approved during 1961.

V. FOODS AND DRUGS.

Ice Cream. Four new licences for the retail of prepacked ice-cream were issued.

Milk Distribution. Four distributors of milk were registered during the year.

Slaughter of Animals. Two privately owned slaughterhouses/ ^{continued} to operate the third housed in St. Lawrence's Hospital supplies its own needs only. Work was in progress to raise the standard of premises and equipment in conformity with new regulations. The appointed day for completion of these improvements is July 1st, 1962.

The following table relates to types and inspection results of animals killed during 1961.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number Killed	261	-	5	593	437
Number Inspected	261	-	5	593	437
<u>All Diseases except T.B. & Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole Carcasses	-	-	-	2	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	24	-	-	21	10
Percentage affected	9.2	-	-	3.5	2.28
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcase	Nil	-	-	-	1
Part or organ	-	-	-	-	10
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	2.51
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

VI. FACTORIES.

The year has been an outstanding one in relation to industrial development. Messrs. Bentlays completed a factory for the manufacture of spectacle frames, and work was commenced on the area depot of S.P.D. Limited, on a modern bakery for associated Family Bakers, and on a factory for Bodmin Precision Instrument Co. The development carries with it the Councils responsibility for supplying essential services, and these are well in hand. A supplementary water supply from the De Lank Main at Nanstallon to Dunnere was commenced in 1961 and as previously reported, plans for the modernisation of the Scarletts Well Sewage Works were initiated.

The following table shows the work undertaken and results of inspection of registered factories in the Borough:-

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	40	18	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found		Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective....	4	4	-	1	-
(c) Not seperate for sexes....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).....	1	1	-	-	-
Total	5	5	-	1	-

No outworkers were recorded during 1961.

VII. PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified infectious diseases were - Measles 107, Scarlet Fever 1, Dysentery 1. No deaths no serious complications were reported from the measles outbreak. No Food Poisoning was reported during 1961. Immunisation of infants against diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis and vaccination against smallpox continued at the Infant Welfare Centre and by the General Practitioners. The proportion of children reaching the age of one in 1961 protected was:-

Combined Diptheria, Pertussis, Tetanus	75%
Poliomyelitis	91%
Smallpox	81%

These figures are most satisfactory. Booster doses for diptheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis were given to children at 5 years and 10 years of age. Early in the year the oral vaccine for poliomyelitis was introduced.

Vaccination against tuberculosis with the B.C.G. vaccine was arranged for appropriate contacts of tuberculosis and for school children in their 13th year. Arrangements were made for the school children over the age of 15 years to visit the mass Radiography Unit during its visit to St.Lawrence's Hospital. No significant findings were recorded.

Adult contacts and cases of tuberculosis continued to be supervised. No new cases of tuberculosis were reported.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the members of the Council and the staff for their help during the year.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

